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### AFFAIRS IN WASHING JON.

OUR SPECIAL DESPATCHES.

THE TWELFTH SECTION MEN.—TAOTICS OF THE DEMOCRATS—CALIFORNIC APPOINTMENTS, ETC.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 4, 1866.

The Twelfth section men had a consultation this morning, previous to the meeting of the House, as to what course they should pursue provided a new man for Speaker should be presented. They determined to adhere to Fuller for the weasant.

ler for the present.

Everything in the shape of resolutions and prepositions to-day—and there was any quantity of them—were overwhelmingly voted down.

The democrats intend to have another caucus to-morrow

vening, to see if they can make some arrangement to ef-

fect an organization.

The ft llowing California appointments were to-day mad by the President:—James McDuffie, Marshal, vice Gen. Richardson, deceased; John Watson, Collector Los Angelos; James A. Patterson, Indian Agent. Captain Bragg, of "a little more grape" celebrity, has

OUR BELATIONS WITH SPAIN-WHAT THE PRESI-

WASHINGTON, Jan. 4, 1856.

The President says in his message: "I do not abandon the hope of concluding with Spain some general arrangement, which, if it do not wholly prevent the recurrence of difficulties in Cuba, will render them less frequent, and whenever they shall occur, facilitate their more speedy

Cuba the powers of the Governor General are so ilmited that he is obliged to refer everything to the home government before any adjustment can be made. The time consumed by this inconvenient and awkward proceeding, frequently augments trifling differences into serious and protracted misunderstandings. The evil is one of an annoying character, and of serious magnitude. The obvious remedy is to obtain the transfer from Spain to Cuba of sufficient authority to settle such difficulties as are liable to arise. It is to negotiations for such a transfer of powers that the President refers in the passage which

## THURTY-FOURTH CONGRESS.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES. Washington, Jan. 4, 1856.
Mr. Boyce, (dem.) of S. C., rose to make a personal explanation. He said he had frequently expressed his opinion that circumstances are at work which are hurrying us almost irresistibly to a disruption of the Union ing us almost irresistibly to a disruption of the Union. He saw, with the most profound regret, a party formed at the North based on the single idea of hostility to the institutions of the South, which party holds that freedom is national and slavery sectional. The constitution recognizes slavery, the formation of that instrument being the result of conciliation and compromise. If that party obtains possession of the government, and he thought it would, disunion would be the result. He did not desire this, and God forbid that it should ever happen.

Mr. Allison, (black rep.) of Pa., replied, saying he had no disposition to make war on slavery in the States, but

no disposition to make war on slavery in the States, but

he opposed its further extension.

The House then proceeded to vote for Speaker, with the

to a choice 111. Mr. Dunn, (black rep.) of Ind., offered a resolution de-claring Mr. Leiter, (K. N. dem.) of Onio, Speaker, and ap-pealed to the Massachusetts men to surrender their personal preference, which stands in the way of effecting their great end, and unite on Mr. Leiter, whom he culo-

their great end, and unite on Mr. Leitor, whom he culogised as eminently fitted for the Speakership.

Mr. KNOWLION, (black rep.) of Me., replied that Mussachusetts alone does not ask the election of Mr. Banks, but the great spirit of freedom has laid her hand upon him. He said that Mr. Dunn, and a few other gontiemen elected on the anti-Nebraska issue, could, if they would, relieve the House from its entanglement.

Messrs. Jones, (dem.) of Tenn., and Houseon. (dem.) of Ala., regarded Mr. Dunn's resolution, declaring Mr. Leiter Speaker, as nothing more than a nomination, and denied the right to thus nominate, and require the House to vote for or against.

The resolution was tabled, by 100 against 30.

Mr. Underwood, (K. N.) of Ky., offered a resolution which must, he said, necessarily result in an election, viz: that the first gentleman named on the list of members be put in nomination, and failing to receive a majority of a quorum, the next one to be voted for, and so

WASHINGTON, January 4, 1856. Col. French's Reception in Washington-The Central American Question-Interview Between Col. French and Mr Crampton-Singular Statement Relative to President Pierce and the Transit Company, de., de., de. Col. French's reception by members of Congress in-lividually, on the floor of the House of Representatives,

and to parties interested in the recognition of Nicaragua. ies, but the administration still think it necessary to keep him at arm's length, while they increase their own importance by exciting a stir about the Ciayton and Bulwer treaty. They wish to impress the country with the doctrine; for which, see the message. Now the people know well enough that Pierce and Marcy care nothing about the Monroe docurine, or the British Protectorate, and it is a burning shame for the administration to be getting up a quarrel with England just whe the point at issue has been practically disposed of by General Walker. If Mearagua should be menexed, Walker would make a first rate Presidential candidate. A war with England about the Mos a war gotten up merely to save the present administra-tion. Nicaragua, merawhile, so fac from thinking of war, will finally dispose of Mosquito to the full satisfaction or dozen of champagne as the price of abdicating the throno. Great Britain is to have a free trade with Nicaragua, to

dozen of champagne as the price of abdicating the throne. Great Britain is to have a free trade with Mearagua, to the utter exclusion of all goods manufactured in Massachusetts or Ohio, and England is to declare war against the United States, and at one fell swoop destroy all her casels, from Maine to Florida. Cultiornia, disgusted with the herocious follies of Pierce and Marcy, is to join with Micaragua and remain neutral.

Seriously, Effairs look atorny at Washington. There is a strong majority of the Senate and House of Representatives in layor of French. His firm bearing and mrillant style of conversation capairates even the old logies, and every day the number of his friends ingreases. The free sellers have already taken the alarm. They are astonished to find that the entire South and Southwest go for Nicaragua to a man. The prespect of an independent republic, populated and governed by Southern men, on the Southern extreme of the continent, is worse to taem than Hanquo's ghost to Macbath.

I can positively masure you that the governing powers of several States have already tendered their warmest acrvices to French. The leading democrats of New Jersey, New York, and other States north of Mason and Bluon's line lawe given him their personal congratulations and assurances of support. French, the man, is of course nothing, though an able one in his way, but French, the representative of Nicaragua and a Southern republic, that is another affair.

Others addirm that Nicaragua latonds to recognize the British protecterate. What, then, will become if Marcy, No war with Fingland—no quarrel even. A dead calmendations in the people to do but one over the past follies and present weakness of the administration. Nicaragua once in close all rance with England, Central America is lost forever to the United States, atmost states that Colonel French has had a long interview with Mr. Crampton, and that as soon as he can hear from his government he is to proceed to Fregland, it District Atterney McKeen will allow him to tak

The anxiety of the free sellers about the probable result of all this stir is truly pittable. It beats Nebrasia. Now is the time to organize a grand Free Sell Central American Emigration Society.

### AFFAIRS IN ALBANY.

Latest from the State Capital.

MORE VOTING FOR SPEAKER—NO DIPPERENCE—NO
MEARES & RESULT—ADJOURNMENT UNTIL MONDAY
—DE. BRANDETH CLAIMING A SEAT IN THE SENATE, ETC.

The triangular warfars systematically continues. The belligerents are as vindictive and hostile as ever; indeed there is less feeling of concession or compromise than there was in the beginning. Everal attempts were again made to-day to elect a Speaker of the House, but no other result was obtained than on previous contained. Knowfoothings, 41; Seward, (blacks,) 24; domocrata, 28, for Bailey, and a dozen scattering. The Castow House members and the other few softs, who refuse to yet for the caucus democratic candidate, are now regarded as the caucus democratic candidate, are now regarded as merely a factious minority of the party, since the State Committee have endorsed the identical resolution which

After consuming an hour in fruitless voting, a disposi-tion arose all around, to adjourn. The country mem-After consuming an hour in fruitless voting, a disposition arose all around, to adjourn. The country members living at a distance wanted to adjourn over until to-merrow morning; these residing near, and on railroad lines, desired to adjourn until Monday evening. A long context arose, several reasons were given pre and con; some insisting that they should remain until an organization shall become effected, and others believing that by paying a visit to their homes and constituents, such public opinion would be gathered as would facilitate the organization. The vote to adjourn over until Monday, six and a half P. M., was taken and carried by a majority of one, according to the count of the Clerk.

This morning the potition of Dootto Brandreth was presented in the Scnate, claiming the seat occupied by John W. Ferdon. Several of the ingredients which the Dootto has intermixed in compounding his pills are strong and powerful, and when administered are likely to produce the desired effect, (as Brandreth's pilis always do), unless the Know Nothing practitioners employed by Mr. Ferdon are capable of producing a counteracting nostrum. This case, and also Mr. Barr's, are now fairly before the Senate. A decision may be expected near the end of the hundred days. In the meantime like Sewardites hold a majority for all practical purposes, and some of them already chuckle at the prospect of sending Preston King to the United States Semate next year, or nobody.

One week of the session spent, and no Speaker chosen. An entire month may be consumed if some different course is not adopted. Well, the people are patient and forbearing.

The Canal Board make the appointments of collectors, superintendents, weighmasters, &c., on the 22d inst.nt. New but "Americans on guard" during the next two years.

### NEW YORK LEGISLATURE.

Mr. Brandennu's memorial, claiming the seat of Mr. Ferndon, was presented, and notice given of the presen-By Mr. Wansworm-To amend General Navigation

far as relates to bonds and mortgages as bases for banking.

By Mr. PATTERSON—To organize a new Judicial district. By Mr. SPENCER—To amend General Hospital law.

Seven additional ballots were taken for Speaker without change in the result. The last and nineteenth vote was

After a long decouse the forestery day evening.

The Frightfull Catastrophe on the Onio and Pennsylvania Railroad.

[From the Gineianali Commercial, Jan. 2.]

On alone's evening, the fist as the fast express train from l'ittsburg to Cincinnati was turning a curve near Barlington, Pa., o frightful collision took place between this and the freight train going east. The collision was so guident that no time was allowed to apply the balakes. The huge loccmetives rushed upon each other as in deadly conflict, and, having spent their giant power in one onsee, sank together upon the track, a consuce mass of ruins. The freight than received comparatively little injury. Not so the other. The baggage car passed entirely through the first passenger car—the bottom of the former passing just above the floor of the latter, sweeping, in the twinkling of an eye, every seat from its place, and crowding passengers, baggage, stowes and proken pieces of timber into a space not large enough for one car. The concussion was felt but for a low seconds, and all was still, except the firce hissing of the escaping steam. Almost instantly the stricks of dying men were heard, far above the noise of the crushed engines. There are great mass of fragments had been washed up, three men were zeen, two of them hold up by their legs, the third

THE DEAD.
Samuel Johnson, New Middletown, Mahoning county A. Stokes, agent of the New Castle and Etie Stage Com-

Any.

Pavid Wait, Canton, Obio. This gentleman lived about three hours after the accident. Both his legs were crushed, and fatal bruises were indicted on his

THE WOUNDED. THE WOUNDED.

Brown Fution, train boy, residence in Alleghany city. One of his shoulders was put out of place, and he was evertly burised.

Daniel Carty, a laborer, residence in Cincionati. One am broken, site and leg badly injured.

John Churchileld, of New Bedford, Penn. Severely burt on head, arm and leg.

Themas Hayes, Alleghany city. Face, head and leg badly burt.

dly burt. Matthew Robb, of Union, Trumbull county, Ohio. One mainteen leg broken.
John Vesch, of Hubbert, Trambull county, Ohio,
John Vesch, of Hubbert, Trambull county, Ohio,
las a bad cut in the bead, and his legs are bad y brulsed.
Henry Mansfield, of St. Louis, both legs broken.
William Waters, (no residence given,) one leg broken.
John McCinley, of Cincinnati. Head cut and arm

Robert Moore, of Legan county, Ohio. Both bips out place. J. Painter, of Canton, Obio. Leg broken and body John Ventman, Postonaster at Hart'erd, Trumbull county, Obio. Fight leg broken and head bruised so verely.

High Moore, of Yourgstown, Ohio. Leg broken and body badly bruised.

George W. Lee, Alleghany city. Both legs broken and body bruised.

W. H. Tyler of New Bedford, Pa. One leg and an arm

W. H. Tyler, of New Bedford, Pa. One leg and an arm broken.

L. S. Way, an aged gentleman, from Grant county, Wisconsin. Post office address, Charlotte. One leg broken, and hip out of place.

Two others were slightly injured.

Mr. Jameson's account of the cause of the calamity and the extent of damage to the railroad machinery is substantially the same as that given by the telegraph. The watch carried by the conductor of the freight train was sifty-three minutes out of time. We do not see how such a state of facts could exist, except through the most unpardonable negligence.

The persons killed and injured were all in the first passenger car, crushing utterly every seat in it.
Two of the dead did not survive an instant. Every person in the fatal car was killed or korribly mutilated, with but two exceptions, and they suffered from slight bruises and splinter wounds.

The passengers in the second car experienced four chocks within an instant of each other, but were merely startled from their seats, and did not imagine that such a nurrier one cartestrople but betailed the occupants of the front car, until they heard the means of the wounded.

micially announced appointees of Jos. S. Taylor, Street

Assessor.—Chas. McNeil, present incumben. Vice Pre-sident Eight-enth Ward Council; Jacob F. Oakley, for-merly Alderman Fourth ward; Wm. A. Bool y, tormer-ly Alderman Nines, eath ward. Collector of Assessments—Jos. R. Taylor, (father of Jos. S. Taylor).

Collector of Assessments—Jos. R. Ta, lor, (fither of Jos. S. Taylor).

Deputy Collectors of Assessments—Horatio N. Sherwood, late Assistant Deputy Registrar; Walter Oakle, formerly Cashier Central Bank; Ira Libby, of the ate dren of Cask, Libby & Co., and brother of ex-Addermin Libby.

Deputy Street Commissioner—Chas. Turner, present incumbent and fifteen years in the office.

Map Clerk—Edwin A. Ware, Seventeenth ward, ex-Assemblyman.

Clerk to Street Commissioner—Henry V. Lovell, late private secretary to J. W. Barker.

Contract Clerk—Not fifled.

Whaves, Piers and Slips—Rufus E. Crane, form in partners of Jes. S. Taylor.

Lands and Places—Win. H. Hibbard, Ninvicenth ward.

Inspector Side Walks-Ed. Merritt, formerly Captain of Seventh ward police.

The appointess are all members of the American party Some, it is understood, have recently joined the councils, but the majority have been connected with the Order for some time. There is, however, great dissatisfaction exsome time. There is, however, great dissatisfaction existing arrang the Americans as to several of the appointees. It is asserted that one of them, if not an Irishman himself, is the son of an Irish Catholic, and a Sowardite of an ultra-stamp, and that his appointment is an insult to the party who voted for Mr. Taylor. Such, at least, is the language of a printed circular that is extensively circulated throughout the city, which is signed by a number of ira's Americans. However, it is but natural that considerable ill feeling should exist, as about a dozen-effices could not very well be bestowed on from four to five thousand applicants. In most casesthe appointees have been taken from those who were familiar with the routine of public office business, and who have sustained themselves creditably and to the public advantage in their several positions.

REPRESENTATIVES OF THE FIRE DEPARTMENT .- An adjournd meeting of the Representative Board was held on last Thursday evening, at Stuyvesant Institute, the Vice President in the chair. The committee charged with the completion of Fireman's Hall reported that they were unable to complete their arrangements, owing to the refusal of Completies Flagg to pay the bills. Some discussion content and and and the statements of the statement of sion ensued and finally the committee were allowed for their time. The committee appointed to investigate certheir time. The committee appointed to investigate certain charges against John Clancy also reported. It was charged that Clancy, in his sest in the Beard of Cuncilmen, used libellous and abusive language towards the Beard of Trustees. The committee reported a resolution censuring Mr. Clancy, and sustaining the Trustees in what they had done, whereupon Mr. Clancy made a spirited defence of his course, and succeeded in postponing action on the resolution until he had an expertunity to produce affidavits exonerable him from blame. The Beard of Trustees made a report on the laws in relation to the illegal storage of gunpowder. It appears they are do'exite, and the Trustees asked for the appointment of a committee to propose and, if possible, procure the passage of alterations in the law, so that this dangerous commodity might be summarily seized and sold without delay when discovered. A communication was received from the Fire Commissioners asking that certain alterations should be made in the law with reference to their decisions. A committee was appointed for that purpose, after which the Beard adjourned.

Figs. in Hammellet Simer.—About ha'f-past 6 o'clock

o manersies street, occupied by Wiltiam Swansboro. The fire was occasioned by a son of Mr. Swansboro going into a closet with a light in his hand, and accidentally setting on fire some of the articles in the closet. The firemen seen arrived and extinguished the flames. Danage done to furniture about \$800, insured in the Corn Exchange Insurance Company for \$1,000. The building belongs to Mr. H. A. Wilght. It is damaged about \$500, and is incured in the New York Equitable Insurance Company for \$1,200.

schools commenced on Thursday evening last, and will THE PLYMOUTH ROCK .- The steamers of the several Bos

Hrooklyn City News.
THE NICABAGUA COLONIZATION PROJECT.
It will be remembered that about Christmas a complaint was preferred against Captain Addison Farnsworth William H. Allen, in which the former was charged with committing, or attempting to commit, a feloniou the parties, as alleged, were connected in the business of

It appears to be generally understood, among the knowing ones, that the last Grand Jusy of the Court of showing ones, that the association and of the court of yer and Terminer, presented bills of indictment against six of our city Aldermen, on charges of bribery and corruption, in connection with the extension and improvement of Atlantic avenue. The majority of the Aldermen thus charged are from the Eastern district of the city, and one or two from this side of the old Williamsburg line. It is probable that the matter will be brought before the courts in due time.

John McCarthy was taken into custody by officer McCor-cack, of the First ward police, charged with having

DESCENT UPON AN ALLEGED DISORDERLY HOUSE. The Fourteenth ward police at the instance of Captain

CHARGE OF PALSE PRETENCES. Henry Foliet, a resident of Cayuga county (N. Y.), wa taken into enstedy on charge of defrauding Stephen M. Caldwell & Co., of \$9 | Iberty street, out of \$1,000 worth of goods, by means of false pretences and fraudulent representations. The accused was arrested in Alcauy some days ago on a similar charge. Follet was brought before Justice Plandreau, at the Jefferson Market Police Court, where he was held to bail to answer the charge.

Personal Intelligence.

pired by limitation on Monday last, but the director, Mr. William H. Pa ne, continued the representations up

to last evening, when "Don Giovanni" was given for his benefit, with t e following cast:—

This is a very good distribution of the parts in this great work, although no better than we have had before. Maretzek has given us casts quite equal to it. The defect is chiefly in assigning Zerlina, which was written for a coprano stogato, to M'lle Didice, who had already made cutly a respectable success in the first coprano part she rita." The bill would have been equally strong, and the performance much better, with La Grange as Zerlim, and Patania.—whom the public liked, but did not see enough

and there does not seem to be any occasion for a criti-cism upon its merits at this late day. They are very great, and what is better, very generally acknowledged. The memory of Mozart is as deeply revered in New York as in Berlin or Prussia. The performance !act night was not effective, because the music was beyond her range. The Don Giovanni of the night was capital—the best ed. The instrumentation was carefully and expellently with the Opera here, and whatever popularity it has is owing mainly to his efforts. He is an excellent and re-

The performance last night was apparently entirely satisfactory to the audience, who called the artists be-before the curtain several times. The Academy was crowded, and rarely have we seen within its walls a more brilliant and fashionable audience. We are informed that Mr. Paine purposes taking a portion of the company to Boston, Philadelphia, Baltimore and Washington, and to

e-open here in March. The past Opera season, while it has resulted unfavorably for the director, has shown that there is a growing taste on the part of our people for the Italian Opera, and that a judicious and experienced manager may always look for a good return for the capital and labor invested. Mr. Paine made some mistakes which he will guard

The Opera season commenced on the first of October. The manager begun wrong. He announced an old opera, the "Trovatore," with a cast much weaker than that of the previous season, and advanced the prices thirty-three per cent. He had also to contend with the Rachel excitement, which was then at its height. In consequence of all these circumstances the receipts fell far short of the paying point. The only real novelty of the season was the 'Trophet," which was produced on the fifth of new tenor, who was imported expressly to sing Jean of Leyden, proving altogether incompetent for the rendering of Mayerbeer's robust music. The miss en some of the piece was splendid. It was given during eight or ten nighte. "Norma," "Don Giovanni," "Massaniello," "Lu-crezia Borgia," "Semiramide," "Linda di Chamounix," have also been given during the season, which continued during forty-two nights. The "Trovatore" seems to have been the most popular opera this year. Mile. Didiće made her octut in America on the 21st of November, playing Areace in "Semiran ide," and made a most favorable im pression, being ranked next af or Alboni. The prices were twice reduced, and were finally, on the 3d of De-cember, "in deference to the will of the people," fixed at one dollar for admission to the lower part of the house. and there was a corresponding reduction for the third tier and amphitheatre. Since the time of changing the prices the audiences have gradually increased in num-

It does not belong to our province to enter into a de astrons Opera season. But we may say that the fallure always willing to support the Opera when it is well cone and given to them at a reasonable price. We hope that

# DEATH OF BLACK BASHAW .- We regret the necessity of

being compelled to announce to the lovers of fine horses 18th year of his age. His death took place on Saturday, Dec. 29, from colic or inflammation of the latestines, at Tullytown, Bucks county, Pa., some three miles from Trenton, N. J. For the past two summers he had been stationed at Trenton, - where he was deservedly held in bigh esteem. Bashaw was a beautiful glossy black horse, with white hind feet, and a stripe in the face. His height was fifteen hands three inches. He was much admired by the best judges for his majestic form and as a trotter, he imparted to his progeny in an emirent degree. Black Bashaw was stred by Young Bashaw, he the Arabian horse Grand Bushaw, imported into the United States from Tripoli in 1820, then four years old. the best Oriental stock in Barbary, and was, no doubt, one of the finest stalions ever imported into America. bian house, he being fully fifteen hands high, and of fault-less proportions. He imparted much of his speed, beauty. and elegance of form to his descendants. His stock are

remarkable as fast trotters and superior road horses. Young Bashaw was the size of Black Bushaw, whose death we have chronicled above, Saladin (also dead), and the celebrated Andrew Jackson. Charlotte Temple

and the celebrated Andrew Jackson. Charlotte Temple was also by Young Bashaw. Andrew Jackson was noted as the sire of Elack Hawk and the famous Kembly Jackson. Black Bashaw and Saladin were both bred in Morriwylle, Bucks county, Pa., by that experienced horseman S. McCracken. Frq., (the owner of Young Bashaw,) out of blood mare—the former a True American, the latter a First Consul. Lambera, so celebrated as a trotter in this vicinity, in a soun of Back Bashaw.

There is a good deal of this stock in Pennsylvania, and in New Jersey bordering on the Delaware; but the great demand and the bigh prices paid for it have drawn much of the Brest from those neighborhoods where it most extensively prevails. It is understood that the vacuum caused by the death of Back Bashaw will be filled by Bashaw, Jr., a very superior animal and every way worthy of his sire. Bashaw also leaves another son (Lightning), out of a thoroughbred Ecilpse mare, which as yet is a coil, but whose appearance is so much in his favor that we may venture the practicion that he will do honor to his nome and lineage.

Before Hon. Judge Peabody.

THE INGRO MINETREE. SQUARBLE.

JAN. 4.—Filtein P. Christy vs. Jos. Murphy and others.—
An attechment was issued against the detendants in this
case for violating an injunction prohibiting them from
employing the designation of "Christy's Minstrels,"
which Mr. F. S. Stalkheeht for plaintiff claims as his
cole right. The detendants stylen themselves "the principal members of Christy's Minstrels," printing "Christy's
Minstrels" in very large letters and the oter portion
is very small type, and they claimed that such was in
violation of the injunction. The Court held otherwise
and refered the motion to discharge the attachment for
thus richaling the injunction.

Naval Intelligence.

On the 1st inst., Commodore Gregory, the late esteemed commandant of the naval station, reported himself is person to take charge of the new frigate Merrama, among of the efficers ordered to her also reported to him. The trigate will not be ready for salling for some weekly yet. The marine guard will join to-day.—In the form the form the figure of the first salling for some weekly yet.

REPUDIATING THE MILL AND A QUARTER TAX.—
In remarking upon the repudiation of the mill and a quarter tax, by the Board of Supervisors of Orange and Canada, the Utica Observer observes that the questions reliced by this refusal of the local legislatures of the constitue to carry out the enactment of the State Legislature may be of far greater extent in their future application than many might at first suppose. If the Boards of Supervisors possess the power to put this check upon preceding the substitutional appropriations of the Legislature—and we do not doubt that they have—the exercise of this power will prove a wholesome safegrand of profection to the people. Let the custom thus initiated provail, and the State Legislature will be brought to a more careful absence to the chester from which they receive their power. The people have, in this expedient, a great and becaused arm of defence, of which, by future legislation, they may still further avail themselves to thwart selatures for squandering the public transports.

## STATE OF THE COUNTRY.

Annual Report of the Secretary of the Interlor.

DEPAREMENT OF THE INTERIOR, Dec. 3, 1855. -I have the honor to submit to you a brief history of the operations during the past year of this Department. It is one of the largest in the government, is branches are numerous and extensive, and in no respect homogensous: hence the labor is the more perplexing

Many interesting and important questions reintive to the public lands have arisen, and the business of the rai Land Office has so increased that it has required all its energy and ability to answer promptly and matte-factorily the urgent demands of the public but it has been so well managed, that perhaps the beneau was nove in better condition.

tended to the newly organized Territories, from which already valuable reports have been received. The quantity of land ready to be brought into market

during the coming year will be large; and, added to that now subject to private entry, will, it is presumed, be

ample to supply the most extensive demand.

It has been the endeavor of the Laud Office, in execute ing the graduation law, to protect and at the same times promote, as far as practicable, the interests of the actual bong fide settler, and to aid as little as possible the to encourage and secure the permanent resident; but the difficult of solution. The office was compelled to require the production of satisfactory proof, within a reasonable

and defeated.

The quantity of land sold at graduated prices during the last fiscal year was 8,720,474 acres; amount received thorefor, \$2,358,918.

In the year eneing 30th Soptember last 15,315,283. Is acres of land have been surveyed. Besides this the true boundary line between Alabama and Florids has been stablished and many other surveys made to correct errors and defects in ancient surveys, and to prepare for the discontinuance of the office of Surveyor General in several of the districts.

No new land was brought into market, however, owing to the large body of lands already subject to entry.

Acres.

Quantity sold for cash during the last fiscal 
 Quantity sold for cash during the last fiscal year was.
 15,729,824.88

 Received therefor \$11,486,384 75.
 15,729,824.88

 Located with military serip and land warrants.
 1,345,580,00

 Swamp lands selected for States.
 7,470,746.62

 Selected on donations for railroads, &c.
 11,558.00

acros; being an increase of about \$27,025 acros (in cash \$47,4206) on that of the corresponding quarters of the preceding year.

This is owing in a great measure to the extraordinary advance and prosperity of the country, but it is feared, in some degree, to the influence of speculation.

The quantity of land covered by warrants issued to selders of all the wars in which the United States have been engaged is \$17,058,412 acres; which enormous amount, taken is connection with our liberal system of pensions, evinces in an emittent degree that the gratitude of our country for the patrotism of ris citizeas is not impaired by the lapse of time, nor its acknowledgment extended with an illiberal hand.

Under the several acis of Cougress for the satisfaction of Virginia military land warrants there were taken of Virginia military land warrants there were taken all the several acis of the lacks. Acts more recent have been passed for the juste of scrip to satisfy this class of warrants, which are being fathfully and yet liberally executed. Although complaints have been made of a tox rigid construction of the law, and against some of the rules and regulations prescribed under it, yet it will be found, on inquiry, that every latitude has been given that a fair observance of its provisions would admit. It has been contended that the decisions of the Executive of the State are obligatory and conclusive upon the Department, unless fraud is clearly shown. But, with the greatest respect for that functionary and his opinions, I found a yeelf, on this point, involved this difficulty; that one executive had allowed what another executive had rejectel, and that the laws under which I ac ed required, as a prerequisite to the issue of the senje, that the Secretary of the Interior, on the surrender of the warrant, should be satisfied, "sy a revision of the perior, that the screetive had rejectel, and that the laws under which I ac ed required as a prerequisite to the issue of the perior, that the screetary of the Interior, on the surr

remark this surrendered was fairly and justic issued, in pursuance of the laws of said commonwealth." In some cases there were no protein on additional testimony, and I could not do otherwise, under the express mandate of the case of the country of the country of the case of the ca